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REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are now pending in the application. By this paper, Claims 1 and 7 have been amended and Claim 6 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The basis for the foregoing amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings originally filed. No new matter has been added. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Imagawa et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,267,536). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is moot with respect to independent Claim 1, as independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the identified allowable subject matter of Claim 6. Because Claims 2 and 5 depend from independent Claim 1, Claims 2 and 5 are similarly believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imagawa (U.S. Pat. No. 5,267,536) in view of Mills (U.S. Pat. No. 4,913,104). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the identified allowable subject matter of Claim 6. Because Claims 3 and 4 depend from independent Claim 1, Claims 3 and 4 are similarly believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicates that Claims 6-9 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the elements of Claim 6 and respectfully submits that independent Claim 1, as well as Claims 2-5 and 7-9, dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

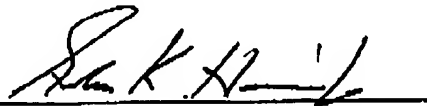
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is

believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 20, 2006

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